

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7590

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R H E A D I N G O N L Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE

SUMMARY: LEBRUON VISIT TO ZAIRE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN A
GREAT SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER EDMOND
LEBURTON ARRIVED IN KINSHASA AUGUST 27 FOR "PRIVATE"
VISIT THAT TURNED INTO SEMI-OFFICIAL ONE. WAS GREETED
BY COMMISSIONER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUZA
KARL-I-BOND WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM THROUGHOUT VISIT. SOON
AFTER ARRIVAL HE WAS WHISKED TO MOUNT NGALIEMA FOR
MEETING AND LUNCH WITH MOBUTU. HE LATER VISITED USUAL
TOURIST SITES, INCLUDING SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
STATION, PRESIDENTIAL FARM AT N'SELE, INGA POWER
PROJECT (AUGUST WILN AND VIRUNGA NATIONAL APRK
(AUGUST 29) WITH STOPOVER IN KISANGANI WHERE HE LUNCHE
D WITH THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AND MET BELGIAN COMMUNITY.
ON AUGUST 31 HE MET RWANDAN PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYALIMANA
AT GISENYI (KIGALI 0533) AND RETURNED TO KINSHASA.

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2. ON SEPTEMBER 1, LEBURTON ACCOMPANIED MOBUTU TO POLITICAL MEETING AT MPR HEADQUARTERS AND RALLY AT NEARBY STADIUM. THEME OF MEETINGS WAS FRATERNAL TIE BETWEEN BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND MPR. LEBURTON WAS NAMED HONORARY CITIZEN OF KINSHASA AND MEMBER OF MPR. FOLLOWING A MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE HE DEPARTED KINSHASA SEPTEMBER 2.

3. AT EACH STOP IN SIX-DAY VISIT LEBURTON WAS MET AND FETED BY HIGH GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS, WITH DANCING AND SINGING BY PARTY MILITANTS. FRIENDLINESS OF RECEPTION WAS MATCHED BY WARMTH OF LEBURTON'S RESPONSE AND HIS PRAISE FOR MOBUTU SUCCESS IN NATION BUILDING. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. BELGIAN CHARGE ALFRED CAHEN DESCRIBES VISIT AS EXTRAORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL FROM POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. LEBURTON SUCCEEDED IN STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP WITH MOBUTU DATING BACK TO 1971 WHEN, PRIOR TO BECOMING PRIME MINISTER, HE TOOK INITIATIVE OF CALLING ON HIM IN LAUSANNE. THEIR CONVERSATIONS WERE ALTERNATELY SERIOUS AND JOVIAL, AND COMPLETELY UNINHIBITED. LEBURTON DEPARTED CONVINCED THAT ZAIRIAN/BELGIAN RELATIONS COULD NOT BE BETTER. WHILE THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BELGIAN INVESTMENT HERE, LEBURTON AVOIDED FIRM COMMITMENTS SO AS NOT TO CROSS WIRES WITH HIS STATE SECRETARY FOR COOPERATION WHO SCHEDULED TO COME TO KINSHASA NEXT MONTH FOR REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH GOZ. ON POLITICAL SIDE, MOBUTU MENTIONED GROWING INFLUENCE OF ZAIRE IN AFRICA AND OFFERED TO HELP BELGIUM IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, NOTABLY RWANDA AND BURUNDI. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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END SUMMARY.
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